Schemes for Handloom Weavers

68. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme for handloom weavers in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the loomless weavers are proposed to be provided with assistance in a phased programme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) The major new schemes formulated during VIII Five Year Plan period covering weavers in the rural areas as well as loomless weavers, inter alia include Group Insurance Scheme; Health Package Scheme; Margin Money for Destitute Weavers Scheme; Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units Scheme; National Silk Yarn Bank Scheme; Marketing support through District level fairs & Exhibition, Design support through freelance designers and coverage of weavers under the ongoing programmes of Ministry of Rural Development.

Villages Without Postal Facilities in Karnataka

69. *SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY*: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are villages in Karnataka which do not have any postal facilities; if so, the number thereof as on the 30th June, 1996; and

(b) by when such facilities would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) there are 18828 villages in Karnataka which do not have a post office. However, mails are delivered daily in all the villages in Karnataka.

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under annual plan scheme subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of targets and resources. Hence no time frame can be given to provide post office facilities in all the villages in Karnataka.

Completion of Hydel Component of Upper Indravati Multi-Purpose Project

70. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) by when the hydel component of the upper Indravati multi-purpose project would be completed; and

(b) what is the total estimate of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The Upper Indravati multi-purpose project is expected to be completed by 1999-2000. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1116.30 crores.

Quota System for Export of Cloth

71. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether quota system in the export of cloth has been abolished under the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, what action plan is being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, the Quota system for the export of textile and clothing products, including the export of cloth, has not been abolished under the World Trade Organisation.

Loans to Agricultural Sector

72. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be